

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1879

LIMDIS

NEWBERRY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, SY

SUBJ: PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE: IZZEDDIN ABDUL-KARIM

REFS: (A) STATE 231414; (B) DAMASCUS 2462; (C) STATE 243595

1. SUBJECT OF SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE FOR FONMIN'S NEPHEW IZZEDDIN ABDUL-KARIM RAISED YESTERDAY DURING MY CALL ON MINISTER. KHADDAM MADE DIRECT REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE, BUT MADE CLEAR HIS DESIRE THAT THIS NOT BE IN FORM OF OFFICIAL USG GRANT. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL CONCERN TO KHADDAM, AND I BELIEVE WE MUST MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HELP.

2. ABDUL-KARIM'S ACADEMIC RECORD IS NOT DISTINGUISHED, AND WE ASSUME THERE LITTLE CHANCE HE COULD OBTAIN A GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP BASED ON ACADEMIC MERIT. WE UNDERSTAND AFME HAS OBTAINED CONDITIONAL PLACEMENT IN ONE OR TWO GRADUATE PROGRAMS, PENDING ABDUL-KARIM'S DEMONSTRATION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCE. HIS ENGLISH WOULD NEED IMPROVEMENT BEFORE EMBARKING ON A GRADUATE STUDY PROGRAM IN THE U.S., AND I BELIEVE THIS IS WHERE OUR IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE WILL PAY DIVIDENDS IN TERMS OUR RELATIONS WITH KHADDAM.

3. I WOULD LIKE THE DEPARTMENT TO ENROLL ABDUL-KARIM
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IN AN INTENSIVE COURSE IN ENGLISH AT THE ALI, GEORGE-

TOWN UNIVERSITY, AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. TIME
IS A FACTOR; ABDUL-KARIM MUST LEAVE THE COUNTRY
WITHIN TWO WEEKS OR FACE MILITARY CONSCRIPTION.
TUITION AND MAINTENANCE AND PERHAPS TRAVEL WOULD HAVE TO COME
FROM CU FUNDS. THIS IS STRETCHING A POINT IN CON-
FORMING TO FONMIN'S DESIRE THAT ABDUL-KARIM NOT BE
GIVEN A USG SCHOLARSHIP, BUT IN MY VIEW IT IS
JUSTIFIABLE AS PREPARATION FOR FORMAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM.

4. WHILE ABDUL-KARIM'S ENGLISH COURSE IS ONGOING,
WE WOULD PROPOSE DEPARTMENT CANVAS VARIOUS PRIVATE
ORGANIZATIONS FOR FUNDS. PERHAPS AFME'S ASSISTANCE
WOULD BE VALUABLE HERE.

5. I BELIEVE OUR EFFORTS ON ABDUL-KARIM'S BEHALF
COULD HAVE DIRECT BENEFIT FOR OTHER EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.
ON OTHER HAND, FAILURE TO HELP IN THIS CASE COULD
LEAD TO FURTHER PROBLEMS IN CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL
EXCHANGE FIELD.
MURPHY

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